

Starvation Deaths

3225. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Starvation deaths took place in Orissa" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported thereon;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission which has deputed a team of officers to investigate the reports of starvation deaths in Orissa, have not yet finalised their recommendation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Implementation of Sarkaria Commission Report

3226. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the implementation of the Sarkaria Commission Report;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan recently demanded that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission may be implemented by December 31, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any deadline has been fixed for the implementation of the Report; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) The Government has seen the resolution passed in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan held on 25.6.1997.

2. The Sarkaria Commission had submitted its report in January, 1998. The report contained 247 recommendations.

3. As decided in the first meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 10.10.1990, a Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council was constituted to examine the

recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations and submit its views and recommendations to the Council. The tenure of the said Committee was extended from time to time, the last term being upto 30.6.1996. The work done by the Sub-Committee is summarised below:—

Number of recommendations :

Accepted with/without modifications	155
Not accepted	24
On which no consensus could be reached	11
Partially considered	1
Yet to be finalised	56
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	247

4. The recommendations finalised by the Sub-Committee could not be considered by the Inter-State Council which remained dormant for about six years. The UF Government has reactivated the Council. The second meeting of the Council was held on 15.10.1996 wherein 179 recommendations finalised by the Sub-Committee were broadly endorsed. It was also recommended that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council for continuous consultations and processing of matters for the consideration of the Council. The Standing Committee was constituted on 5.12.1996. It has held four meetings so far. The following important subjects were discussed in these meetings:—

- (i) Alternative Scheme of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States submitted by the Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) Amendment to article 356 of the Constitution of India.
- (iii) Centre-State Financial Relations (Chapter X of the Sarkaria Commission's Report).

5. A draft consensus paper on the Role of Governor (Chapter IV) of the Sarkaria Commission's Report has been circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee and is proposed to be discussed in the fifth meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. The third meeting of the Inter-State Council was held on 17.7.1997. A major achievement of this meeting was approval of the Alternative Scheme of Devaluation of Share in Central Taxes to States. The share of the States will be 29% with effect from 1.4.1996. This will be reviewed in December 1997 with a view to improving it. No consensus emerged in this meeting on the question of amending article 356 of the Constitution of India.

7 Instructions have been issued to the Administrative Ministries concerned to implement 54 recommendations as endorsed by the Inter-State Council. The Government is keen to complete action on the pending recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

Ganga Action Plan

3227. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outcome of the scheme to make the Ganga free from pollution is unsatisfactory during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the projects taken up during the said period;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(e) whether any action has taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings noticed in the scheme for making Ganga free from pollution;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the funds for Ganga Action Plan-I, have been embezzled to a large extent in some States; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) As a result of completion of 251 schemes of pollution abatement out of 261 schemes sanctioned under the Ganga Action Plan, the river water quality in terms of the bio-chemical oxygen demand has shown improvement all along the river except at Kanpur. Even at Kanpur, the bio-chemical oxygen demand has improved from 25.0 mg/l in 1992 to

5.8 mg/l in 1997 against the desirable standard of 3 mg/l of 'Bathing Class'. The year-wise date of bio-chemical oxygen demand of river water during the period from 1992 to till date monitored at 16 monitoring stations along the river are given in the Statement attached. The improvement in river water quality at Kanpur has not been upto the desirable level as nearly 200 million litres per day of sewage which could not be tackled up under the Ganga Action Plan-I has now been taken up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II.

(c) and (d) Additional pollution abatement works in 59 towns on the river Ganga have been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 713.05 crores during the period from July, 1995 to October, 1996. An expenditure of Rs. 9.24 crore towards the 50% Central share has been incurred on this programme so far.

(e) and (f) Lessons learnt and experience gained from the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I have been used to formulate the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II so that the shortcomings of the former are removed. Difficulties faced by the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in providing adequate funds in time for operation and maintenance of assets created under the Ganga Action Plan have been reported. Difficulties faced by all the three States namely; Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal in providing their 50% matching share in the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II were also reported. To overcome these difficulties, the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II has been made a 100% funded Centrally Sponsored scheme as against its present funding pattern of 50:50 between the Central Government and the State Governments. The State Governments have also been asked to ensure provision of adequate and timely funds for operation and maintenance of assets.

(g) and (h) Diversion of funds released for the Ganga Action Plan have been reported from time to time to in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. At present, an amount of Rs. 2.47 crores is pending reconciliation in Uttar Pradesh and an amount of Rs. 0.91 crores is to be recouped by the Government of Bihar.

Statement

Summer average values for water quality on main stem of river Ganga under Ganga Action Plan

Station Name	Distance in km.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (mg/l) (Acceptable limit less than 3 mg/l)					
		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rishikesh	0	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.1
Hardwar D/S	30	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.7	1.1	1.3